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AUTHOR Fujita, Eleanor
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ABSTRACT

Historically, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) in New Jersey has included developmental education within its mission. As a result of a major re-evaluation of the College's offerings and operations during 1992, it was recommended that: (1) the college formulate curricula that would serve students who do not progress to college-level study so that they will obtain skills to enable them to enter the working world; (2) maintain assessment and developmental services for academically underprepared students; and (3) obtain alternative funding programs for students in pre-college remedial programs. The mission statement approved in April 1993 included the importance of access regardless of educational preparation and basic skills instruction. In a comprehensive review of academic progress of students who began as freshmen in 1989, 20% began in degree programs; 30% began in developmental education; and 50% began in English-as-a-Second-Language course. The evidence overwhelmingly justifies the inclusion of a developmental education goal in HCCC's mission. The challenge for the college is to carry out this function at such a high level of excellence that developmental education students will be able to hold gainful employment; take part in community life; and continue their education in degree programs. HCCC must help the community understand the necessity of developmental education and support that domain of the mission. (KP)

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HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Planning and Institutional Research
Mark Oromaner, Dean
(201) 714-2113

**AN ARGUMENT FOR PROVIDING DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION
AS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE URBAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION OF
HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
(Related to Special Report 93.03)**

Eleanor Fujita, Ed.D., Director of Institutional Research

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**Special Report 93.04
October 1993**

**Presented at the Symposium on Developing Strategies for
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Jersey City State College,
October 29, 1993**

Executive Summary

This paper was prepared for and presented at the Symposium on Developing Strategies for Excellence in Urban Education at Jersey City State College on October 29, 1993 by Eleanor Fujita to be given in conjunction with the paper delivered by Mark Oromaner, "Development of a Mission Statement for a Comprehensive Urban Community College" (Special Report 93.03).

The main points made in the paper are as follows:

- Historically the college has included developmental education within its mission.
- The Blueprint Project recommendations included the importance of providing developmental services for academically underprepared students.
- 80% of the college community and 65% of the county leaders responding to a survey regarding the future mission of the college judged that it was "quite" or "very important" for the college to "offer instruction in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills to prepare students for degree programs."
- The mission statement ultimately approved in April of 1993 included the importance of providing access regardless of educational preparation and of providing instruction in basic skills.
- The reality of the situation dictates that the college offer basic skills preparation:
 - a review of the records of the students who began as freshman in 1989 revealed that
 - only 20% of the new freshman began in full degree programs
 - 30% began in developmental education
 - 50% began in English-as-a-Second Language courses
 - a review of the 1990 Census shows that of the residents of Hudson County eighteen years of age or older
 - 64% have attained only a high school diploma
 - 35% have not attained a high school diploma
 - 15% have less than a ninth grade education

The evidence supports offering developmental education if the college is to be a fully comprehensive urban community college. The challenge for the college is to carry out this instructional function at such a high level of excellence that students requiring and completing developmental education will be able to hold gainful employment, take part fully in the life of their community, and if they choose, continue their education in degree programs.

AN ARGUMENT FOR PROVIDING DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION AS PART OF THE
COMPREHENSIVE URBAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION
OF HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Eleanor Fujita
Director of Institutional Research
Hudson County Community College, Jersey City, New Jersey
October 1993

You may be asking yourself at this point what the "Development of a Mission Statement for a Comprehensive Urban Community College" has to do with "Developmental Skills Program and Excellence," the topic of this session. And to that we would answer, "Everything." Let me explain.

- Historically Hudson County Community College has included developmental education within its mission. Though the inclusion of developmental education was implied in the original mission statement, it was clearly stated in the 1983 revision:

As an open access institution, the College strives to meet other educational needs of its heterogeneous population, including the need for the development of programs, services and assistance *necessary to successfully enter into* and complete a certificate or associate degree program.

- As a result of a major re-evaluation of the College's offerings and operations during 1992, it was recommended, among other actions, that the College (Blueprint Project):
 - Formulate curricula that would serve students who do not progress to college level study so that they will obtain skills to enable them to enter the world of work (p. ii).
 - Maintain assessment and developmental services for academically underprepared students (p. iv).
 - Hudson County Community College must obtain alternative funding programs for students in pre-college remedial programs through the Department of Higher Education. Thus, the student would not be required to be fully matriculated to obtain financial aid while taking preparatory courses (p. 30).
- During a survey of the college and community as part of the recent mission statement review, the following attitudes were found:
 - 80% of the college community responded that it was "quite" or "very important" for the college to "offer instruction in basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills to prepare students for degree programs;" this compares with 65% of county leaders.

- 57% of the college community responded that it was "quite" or "very important" for the college to "provide access to college education for students regardless of their educational background;" this compares with 42% of county leaders.
 - The above responses compare to a high of 92% and 97% respectively responding that occupational degree programs were "quite" or "very important," and a low of 29% to 51% responding that such functions as civic workshops, intercollegiate athletics, or bilingual instruction were "quite" or "very important."
 - 3 of 133 (2%) comments contributed by college community members mentioned developmental education: "For students in academic foundation courses, we should offer a course which promotes vocabulary expansion and an understanding of the roots and kinship of English with the roots of students' native tongues," "We have too many students who lack the intellectual ability to ever succeed in college level courses," and "the state schools offer remedial courses, ESL, GED, etc. More competition means HCCC should be more specific and have focused goals (then increase the curriculum and spread to locations as needed - by adding needed classes)." Other comments referred to the time it takes for students to complete developmental education and the need for ESL courses
 - 2 of 67 (3%) comments contributed by county leaders mentioned developmental education: "Provide affordable college education to Hudson County residents and remedial work," "In general, a community college should not be involved in GED or remedial reading, writing, and math programs. This should and must be done at the local high school level." Other comments included support for a English as a Second Language program, but disapproval of bilingual education.
- The mission statement ultimately approved in April of 1993 included
 - the importance of access regardless of educational preparation:

The College is committed to equal educational opportunities for traditional and non-traditional students who can benefit from its programs and services without regard to race, ethnic or national origin, religion, age, gender, disability, economic status, or *educational background* [emphasis added]
 - and basic skills instruction in the fourth of eight general goals:

To provide support services including counseling, job placement, aptitude and skills testing, financial aid, academic advisement, and basic skills development to help students succeed and benefit from academic programs.

- The reality of the situation at Hudson County Community College is that very few students begin their programs as fully-degree students. In a comprehensive review of the academic progress of students who began as freshman in 1989, it was found that

- Only 20% of the new freshman began in fully degree programs
- 30% began in developmental education (or basic skills courses)
- 50% began in English-as-a-Second Language courses

- Further, according to the 1990 Census, the reality of Hudson County is that

- Nearly two-thirds of the residents of the County (64%) eighteen years of age or older have no more than a high school diploma. (For those twenty-five or over identifying themselves as Hispanic, 74% have no more than a high school diploma.) (See Table 1 and 2)
- Just over one-third (35% eighteen years of age or older, and 36% twenty-five years of age or older) have not attained a high school diploma. (This is true for nearly 50% of Hispanics twenty-five or older.) (See Table 1 and 2)
- And further, one in six (15% eighteen years of age or older, and 17% twenty-five years of age or older) have less than a ninth grade education. (This is true for 28% of Hispanics twenty-five or older.) (See Table 1)
- Of residents sixteen to nineteen years old, 14% had not graduated from high school nor were continuing their education. (This was true for 21% of African Americans). In fact the number of drop outs was higher than the number of graduates.
- The sixteen to nineteen year old drop outs were twice as likely to be unemployed as their graduating counterparts (With the highest unemployment among African Americans). (Hudson County's overall unemployment rate of 12% was third highest in the state in 1991, and the county has the state's highest level of families living below the poverty level [14.8% in 1989].)
- Of residents five years of age or older, 47% (245,367) speak a language other than English at home, and 51% of these (124,367) do not consider themselves to speak English "very well."

We believe the evidence overwhelmingly justifies the inclusion of a developmental education goal in the mission of Hudson County Community College if it is to be a fully comprehensive urban community college. The challenge for the college is to carry out this function at such a high level of excellence that students requiring and completing developmental education will be able to (1) hold gainful employment, (2) take part fully in the life of their community, and, if they choose, (3) continue their education in degree programs. And, as the results of our survey of the college community and county leaders make clear, a further challenge we face is an educational or public relations one -- we must help the community understand the necessity of developmental education and support that domain of our mission.

Table 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY						
LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	PERSONS 18 YRS AND OLDER			PERSONS 25 YRS AND OLDER		
	N	%	Cumulative %	N	%	Cumulative %
Less than 9th grade	66,918	15.5	15.4	64,096	17.2	17.4
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	83,319	19.4	34.9	69,652	18.7	35.9
High school graduate	124,028	28.8	63.7	105,339	28.3	64.2
Some college, no degree	59,186	13.7	77.4	45,646	12.3	76.5
Associate degree	16,673	3.9	81.3	13,977	3.8	80.3
Bachelor's degree	56,270	13.1	94.4	49,687	13.4	93.7
Graduate or professional degree	24,301	5.6	100.0	23,709	6.4	100.1
Total	430,695	100.0		372,106	100.1	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development.

Table 2 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND OLDER BY HISPANIC/NON-HISPANIC						
LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	HISPANIC PERSONS			NON-HISPANIC PERSONS		
	N	%	Cumulative %	N	%	Cumulative %
Less than 9th grade	31,641	28.3	28.3	32,447	12.5	12.5
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	23,598	21.1	49.4	46,054	17.7	30.2
High school graduate	27,353	24.5	73.9	77,986	30.0	60.2
Some college, no degree	13,938	12.5	86.4	31,708	12.2	72.4
Associate degree	4,416	4.0	90.4	9,561	3.7	76.1
Bachelor's degree	7,245	6.5	96.9	42,442	16.3	92.4
Graduate or professional degree	3,655	3.3	100.2	20,054	7.7	100.1
Total	111,854	100.2		260,252	100.1	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development.

Table 3 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AND OLDER BY RACE											
LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	AFRICAN-AMERICAN			ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER			WHITE			OTHER	
	N	%	Cumul ative %	N	%	Cumul ative %	N	%	Cumul ative %	N	%
Less than 9th grade	5,713	12.6	12.6	2,133	9.1	9.1	47,604	17.5	17.5	8,646	27.8
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	10,838	24.0	36.6	2,196	9.3	18.4	49,869	18.3	35.8	6,749	21.7
High school graduate	13,131	29.0	65.6	3,322	14.1	32.5	81,013	29.8	65.6	7,873	25.3
Some college, no degree	7,790	17.2	82.8	2,617	11.1	43.6	31,056	11.4	77.0	4,183	13.4
Associate degree	1,650	3.7	86.5	1,642	7.0	50.6	9,346	3.4	80.4	1,339	4.3
Bachelor's degree	4,398	9.7	96.2	8,007	34.0	84.6	35,571	13.1	93.5	1,711	5.5
Graduate or professional degree	1,739	3.8	100.0	3,657	15.5	100.1	17,670	6.5	100.0	643	2.1
Total	45,259	100.0		23,574	100.1		272,129	100.0		31,144	100.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development.

Table 4 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY RESIDENTS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY MUNICIPALITY							
MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	No High School Diploma		High School Diploma, No College		Some College through Graduate Degree	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Bayonne	43,842	13,130	30.0	16,435	37.5	1,277	32.6
East Newark	1,392	653	46.9	510	36.6	229	16.5
Guttenberg	6,182	1,827	29.6	1,527	24.7	2,828	45.8
Harrison	9,268	3,952	42.6	2,765	29.8	2,551	27.5
Hoboken	23,374	7,063	30.2	3,871	16.6	12,440	53.2
Jersey City	146,721	50,355	34.3	40,217	27.4	56,149	38.3
Kearny	23,770	7,490	31.5	8,963	37.7	7,317	30.8
North Bergen	34,342	12,178	35.5	9,964	29.0	12,200	35.5
Secaucus	10,496	2,743	26.1	3,315	31.6	4,438	42.3
Union City	37,800	18,697	49.5	9,495	25.1	9,608	25.4
Weehawken	8,906	2,628	29.5	2,316	26.0	3,962	44.5
West New York	26,013	13,032	50.1	5,961	22.9	7,020	27.0
Total Hudson County	372,106	133,748	35.9	105,339	28.3	133,019	35.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development.

Table 5 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY RESIDENTS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY MUNICIPALITY									
MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	No High School Diploma		High School Diploma, No College		Some College through Graduate Degree		N	%
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Bayonne	49,284	14,263	28.9	18,481	37.5	16,540	33.6		
East Newark	1,651	734	44.5	647	39.2	270	16.4		
Guttenberg	6,749	1,983	29.4	1,702	25.2	3,064	45.4		
Harrison	10,603	4,305	40.6	3,186	30.1	3,112	29.4		
Hoboken	27,815	7,829	28.2	4,745	17.1	15,241	54.8		
Jersey City	172,703	58,778	34.0	48,099	27.9	65,826	38.1		
Kearny	27,420	8,288	30.2	10,276	37.5	8,856	32.3		
North Bergen	38,516	13,085	34.0	11,476	29.8	13,955	36.2		
Secaucus	11,830	2,874	24.3	3,797	32.1	5,159	43.6		
Union City	44,047	20,848	47.3	11,553	26.2	11,646	26.4		
Weehawken	10,122	2,930	29.0	2,666	26.3	4,526	44.7		
West New York	29,955	14,320	47.8	7,400	24.7	8,235	27.5		
Total Hudson County	430,695	150,237	34.9	124,028	28.8	156,430	36.3		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development.

Table 6 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS BUT LESS THAN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE BY MUNICIPALITY									
MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	No High School Diploma		High School Diploma, No College		Some College through Graduate Degree		N	%
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
Bayonne	5,442	1,133	20.8	2,046	37.6	2,263	41.6		
East Newark	259	81	31.3	137	52.9	41	15.8		
Guttenberg	567	156	27.5	175	30.9	236	41.6		
Harrison	1,335	353	26.4	421	31.5	561	42.0		
Hoboken	4,441	766	17.3	874	19.7	2,801	63.1		
Jersey City	25,982	8,423	32.4	7,882	30.3	9,677	37.3		
Kearny	3,650	798	21.9	1,313	36.0	1,539	42.2		
North Bergen	4,174	907	21.7	1,512	36.2	1,755	42.1		
Secaucus	1,334	131	9.8	482	36.1	721	54.1		
Union City	6,247	2,151	34.4	2,058	32.9	2,038	32.6		
Weehawken	1,216	302	24.8	350	28.8	564	46.4		
West New York	3,942	1,288	32.7	1,439	36.5	1,215	30.8		
Total Hudson County	58,589	16,489	28.1	18,689	31.9	23,411	40.0		

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development.

Table 7 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RESIDENTS OF HUDSON COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO ARE EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER BY MUNICIPALITY									
MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL	% Less than 9th grade Educ.	% 9-12 Educ; No H.S. Diploma	% H.S. Diploma; No College	% Some College; No Degree	% Associate Degree	% Bachelor's Degree	% Grad or Prof Degree	
Bayonne	49,284	11	18	38	14	4	11	5	
East Newark	1,651	20	25	39	10	2	3	2	
Guttenberg	6,749	15	14	25	14	5	16	11	
Harrison	10,603	20	21	30	11	3	9	6	
Hoboken	27,815	15	13	17	11	4	29	10	
Jersey City	172,703	13	21	28	15	4	14	6	
Kearny	27,420	14	17	37	14	4	10	5	
North Bergen	38,516	17	17	30	14	5	12	5	
Secaucus	11,830	9	16	32	16	5	16	8	
Union City	44,047	25	22	26	12	4	7	4	
Weehawken	10,122	14	15	26	14	4	17	9	
West New York	29,955	28	19	25	12	3	8	4	
County Total	430,895	16	19	29	14	4	13	6	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3; prepared by New Jersey State Data Center, New Jersey Department of Labor, May 1992; supplied by Hudson County Department of Planning Office and Economic Development